

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]]. Any cancellations are without prejudice.

CLAIMS:

1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Original) A decking system, comprising:

a plurality of decking members, each decking member being spaced apart from at least one other decking member by a gap, the gap being bordered by side surfaces of adjacent decking members, each side surface having a notch formed therein;

at least one joist crossing under the gap between adjacent decking members; and

a plurality of clip apparatuses, each clip apparatus including a top portion positioned in the gap above the joist, two lateral projections that extend from the top portion into respective notches on either side of the gap, and a pair of downward projections that extend from the top portion to respective positions adjacent opposite sides of the joist.

12. (Original) The decking system of claim 11, wherein the top portion includes a hole.

13. (Original) The decking system of claim 12, further comprising a fastener extending through the hole into the joist to secure the clip apparatus and adjacent decking members to the joist.

14. (Original) The decking system of claim 11, wherein the decking members are oriented along respective substantially parallel decking member axes.

15. (Original) The decking system of claim 14, wherein the joist is oriented along a joist axis.

16. (Original) The decking system of claim 15, wherein the decking member axes are substantially perpendicular to the joist axis.

17. (Original) The decking system of claim 11, wherein the lateral projections contact a respective inner wall of each notch and inhibit movement of adjacent decking members together closer than a predetermined minimum distance.

18. (Original) The decking system of claim 11, wherein a distal end of each downward projection includes a flared portion extending away from the joist.

19. (Original) The decking system of claim 11, wherein an inner surface of each downward portion includes a bump extending toward the joist.

20. (Original) The decking system of claim 11, wherein the notch is bordered on an upper side by an upper lip and on a lower side by a lower lip, the upper lip extending further into the gap than the lower lip.

21. (New) The decking system of claim 11, wherein the decking members are wooden.

22. (New) The decking system of claim 11, wherein each notch is formed along substantially the entire length of respective side surface of a decking member.